

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 16 and 28 are amended, and claims 13 and 14 are canceled, leaving claims 1-12 and 15-33 pending with claims 1, 16 and 28 being independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-6, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,478,679 to Himoto. The Himoto patent discloses a memory device for a game controller.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, among other things, a hand-held game, including electrical circuitry within a housing, a display card visible through a display screen, the display card having a portion that allows completion of electrical circuitry and being insertable and removable through a first opening, and a plurality of LED's visible through the display screen and the display card mounted on the printed circuit board. The amendments to claim 1 generally incorporate the language recited in claims 13 and 14, which depended from claim 1.

The Himoto patent does not disclose or render obvious a plurality of LEDs visible through the Himoto removable memory card when the printed circuit board is mounted behind the display card.

Furthermore, none of the cited prior art alone or in combination discloses or renders obvious such a game system.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 28

Claim 28 recites, among other things, a method of playing a hand-held pinball game, including the steps of playing the hand-held pinball game in a first manner with a first display card viewable through a display screen in the housing of the hand-held pinball game, the first display card having a first opening in a first position, which allows completion of an electrical circuit in a first mode, removing the first display card through a first opening in the housing, the

second display card having a second opening in a second position, said second opening allowing completion of the electrical circuit in a second mode, and inserting a second display card through the first opening in the housing, and playing the hand-held pinball game in a second manner with the second display card viewable through the display screen in the housing of the pinball game.

The amended claim language is similar to existing language in claim 16.

The Himoto patent does not disclose or render obvious two separate display cards having openings in first and second positions, the different openings allowing for completion of circuits in two different modes.

The Himoto patent merely discloses a memory card that has one opening and is positioned in a game controller. At best, the Himoto patent could allow different game play based on the data stored therein; however, this game play is not based on the position of an opening on the memory card.

Applicant submits that claim 28 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 10, 11, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Himoto patent in view of US Patent No. 6,375,572 to Masuyama et al.

The Masuyama patent is cited as teaching an impact sensor. The Masuyama patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent. That is, the Masuyama patent does not disclose or render obvious a removable card with LED's visible therethrough.

Therefore, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, including claims 10 and 11 are allowable.

Claim 16

Claim 16 and its dependent claims are allowable for reasons similar to those above. Namely, the cited prior art does not disclose or render obvious a hand-held pinball game, including a first display card visible through said display screen and having a first opening in a first position and configured to complete said circuit in a first manner and a second opening in said housing for receiving a second display card, said second display card being interchangeable with said first display card and having a second opening in a second position and configured to complete said circuit in a second manner.

Claims 12, 19, 20, 23-25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over the Himoto patent in view of the Masuyama patent and further in view of US Patent No. 6,743,104 to Ota et al.

Claims 12, 19, 20, 23-25 and 27 are allowable since, the Ota patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent and the Masuyama patent.

Claims 18 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over the Himoto patent in view of the Masuyama patent and further in view of US Patent No. 5,700,193 to d'Achard Van Enschut.

Claims 18 and 33 are allowable since, the d'Achard Van Enschut patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent and the Masuyama patent.

Claims 5, 8, 9, 13-15 and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over the Himoto patent in view of the Ota patent.

Claims 5, 8, 9, 13-15 and 32 are allowable since, the Ota patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over the Himoto patent in view of the Ota patent and further in view of the Masuyama patent.

Claim 6 is allowable since, the Masuyama patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent and the Ota patent.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over the Himoto patent in view of the Ota patent and further in view of the d'Achard Van Enschut patent.

Claim 7 is allowable since, the d'Achard Van Enschut patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Himoto patent and the Ota patent.

New Claim 34

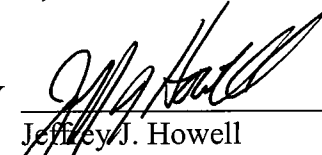
New claim 34 is allowable over the cited prior art, since it is dependent from claim 28. Furthermore, dependent claim 34 recites that the step of inserting a second display card through the first opening in the housing includes allowing at least one LED that is mounted on a circuit board in the housing behind the display screen to be visible through the second card when inserted into the first opening which is not visible through the first card when inserted into the first opening. This step is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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